3. Quinine
4. Primetheamine
5. Sulfamethopyrezine

V. *National Filaria Eradication Programme*

1. Diethyl Carbamazine.

837. *[Transferred to the 31st July, 1989].*

Foreign trips of Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MTNL

838. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Foreign Trips made by the Chairman-cum-Managing Director and Chief General Manager of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., during the financial years 1986-87 and 1988-89 ;

(b) what was the purpose, duration and expenditure of each visit ; and

(c) what objectives have been achieved by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. by these Foreign Trips. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) There is no post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director for Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

The details of foreign visists in respect of the Managing Director and Chief General Managers of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. are given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 68).

(c) Telecom. and information technology have a very high rate of obsolesence. It becomes therefore necessary that Officers must keep abreast with latest developments in the field by attending International Meetings/Seminars of Internationa Organisations like International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Bank and other specialised agencies of United Nations, Exhibitions, Forums etc.

These visits have been very useful to the management to plan and manage the operation and development of telecom facilities in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.

Import of Vinblastine and Vincrestine

839. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the justification for allowing imports of finished formulations of Vinblastine and Vincrestine when these two drugs are being produced in the country and is also being formulated by more than one company;

(b) whether it is a fact that imports at zero rate of custom duty continue with a view to damag domestic production;

(c) what are the main reasons therefor;

(d) what steps have been taken to prevent duty free imports of these two drugs and their formulations with a view to save domestic pro- duction;

(e) what steps have been taken to ban both the bulk drugs and formulations based on these drugs; and

(f) what is the price of indigenous injections and what is the selling price of each of these two injections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) to (d) The import policy for the import of finished medicines is decided by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Ministry of Commerce. The list of finished medicines allowed for import is reviewed by the permanent Review Committee chaired by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

(e) There is no proposal to ban the formulations of these anti cancer drugs.

(f) The prices of drugs and medicines are monitored by the Ministry of Industry under the Drugs Price Control Order.

840. (*Transferred to the 31st July*, 1989)

841. (*Transferred to the 31st July*, 1989)

842. (*Transferred to the 31st July*, 1989)

Import of Dexamethasone

843. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 160 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th April, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that within the same expenditure of foreign exchange, the quantity of Dexamethasone which was imported in 1987-88, is double the quantity imported in 1985-86;

(b) what are the names of importers during each year, the quantity imported by each, name of the supplier and CIF value of each consignment;

(c) what are the names of formulations being marketed by each and what was the price of each formulation during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(d) whether it is a fact that their representative did not bring up this issue in Drugs Price review Committee;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps have been taken to rectify the situation and what action has been taken against drug companies for overcharging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE of THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) and (b) Information as available with this Ministry reveals that during 1985-86, 230 Kgs. of Dexamethasone was imported and c.i.f. value was Rs. 37,755/-. In 1987-88 470.250 Kgs. were imported of which c.i.f. value is Rs. 39,146/-.

(c) Some of the popular formulations of Dexamethasone are Dexona Injection and tablet, Decadran tablet, Idizone tablet and Injection and Wymesone tablets and Injections. Pricing of drugs is monitored by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices.

(d) to (f) The Drug Price review Committee is under the administrataive control of the Ministry of Industry.